

MONTEREY COUNTY



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December 17, 2020

The Honorable Anthony Portantino
California State Senate
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 45 (Portantino) Wildfire Prevention, Safe Drinking Water, Drought Preparation, and Flood Protection Bond Act of 2022 – SUPPORT

Dear Senator Portantino:

The County of Monterey is pleased to support your bill SB 45 (Portantino) which would enact the Wildfire Prevention, Safe Drinking Water, Drought Preparation, and Flood Protection Bond Act of 2022. The bond would be placed on the November 2020 ballot and if approved by the voters, would authorize the issuance of bonds in the amount of \$5,510,000,000 pursuant to the State General Obligation Bond Law to finance projects for a wildfire prevention, safe drinking water, drought preparation, and flood protection program.

California's changing climate creates increased risks of catastrophic wildfire, drought, floods, severe heat events, intense rain events, and sea level rise that will impact California's residents, agriculture, water supply, water quality, and the health of forests, watersheds, fish and wildlife, our biodiversity, and our economy. Climate change threatens and undermines California's ability to provide access to clean, safe, and reliable drinking water. These risks and impacts vary by region and can overwhelm the resources of local governments and communities that must cope with changing conditions and severe climate change-related events. Reducing vulnerability to fire, flood, drought, and other climate change-related events, and building the trained workforce needed to accomplish this goal requires statewide investment to save lives and increase climate resilience of communities and natural systems.

An integrated statewide investment that prevents wildfires and other natural disasters, reduces near-term climate change risks, and increases long-term resilience to climate change will save local and state agencies and California residents billions of dollars by preventing or reducing the amount of damage that would otherwise occur.

For these reasons, Monterey County strongly supports SB 45 (Portantino). Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact Monterey County's Public Policy Advisor, Ashley Walker of Nossaman LLP at 916-442-8888.

Sincerely,

DRAFT

Chris M. Lopez
Chair, Board of Supervisors

CC: Hon. Anna Caballero, 12th Senate District
Hon. John Laird, 17th Senate District
Hon. Mark Stone, 29th Assembly District
Hon. Robert Rivas, 30th Assembly District

California State Association of Counties (CSAC)
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